

Next Interview  
Mark Pherps

DNR: Could you please state your name and the name of your wife.

**Mark: I'm Mark and this is Annibel Pherps and I was in two camps, #1756 and #3723. Two different types of work.**

DNR: What were those?

**Mark: In #1756 we built bathhouse, damn, and the boathouse and worked in their rock quarry quite a bit.**

DNR: Where was that rock quarry located?

**Mark: That was north of strawberry point, near Osborne. At #1756 I stayed there and got the mumps and something else. Our captain wanted me to go work in the kitchen. After I was in there for a while I worked as a cook for a while. The cook was the most hated person in the campus. They never liked what we cooked.**

DNR: How much did you get paid?

**Mark: We got five dollars a month, which amounts to 18 and 2/3 cents per day. And our parents got twenty-five dollars, which amounts to 80 and 1/3 cents/day to live off of.**

DNR: I would like to back up to when you said, "They didn't like what you cooked when you were there".

**Mark: Well yes, it shouldn't be mentioned.**

DNR: That's OK

**Mark: Well it was dried beef and gravy, but it shouldn't be mentioned over the air.**

DNR: You can tell us.

**Mark: Well, its called shit on the stick. I'll admit that. Everytime that would come up the place would be in an uproar.**

DNR: What was the typical meal like?

**Mark: The hardest thing to cook was beef and stuff like that. We would run about a half-pound of meat per person.**

DNR: That's a lot of meat.

**Mark: Yes it was, but it was all ate. Some boys could eat twice as much as the others.**

DNR: Do you remember roughly how many people you cooked for a day?

**Mark: 254 men,**

DNR: Previously you talked about how many loaves of bread you had to cook a day.

**Mark: We baked one night and made two-hundred and some loves of bread, and that would lasted a day. Captain Paul said, " that's enough, we'll buy it". We got it for three cents a loaf.**

DNR: That came out of Ft. Des Moines?

**Mark: Yep, well the bakery usually purchased it. But the cake and all our pies were made by Jack Hill, of Edgewood. That's where I learned to cook and bake, under him.**

DNR: What was camp life like for you?

**Mark: Well, right at first it was rough. But then I liked it. It helped me a lot; I only had a ninth grade education. I got education out of there, an actual education that helped me with my life.**

DNR: How long were you in?

**Mark: I was in almost a year and a half at Backbone Park, and then I was in Marion two years. In Marion, we had done terraces in farms in waterways. Planted trees in the gullies.**

DNR: Were doing that again today. Were going back in the watershed projects and doing more work.

**Mark: The watershed projects was one of the best things done for farms. Some farmers around Marion are still using it. If you see a round place were you see corn going around a hillside, that is in terraces.**

DNR: What did you do after you left the CCC?

**Mark: Worked in Ames for a construction company for about eight months. Went into Gambel store as a salesman. From the Gambel store I went into their warehouse as a reserving clerk and a shipping clerk.**

DNR: How long were you there for?

**Mark: Around 15 years. After that I went out and worked at another factory "Packing Corporation For America", and I retired from there.**

DNR: What did you like most about your time in camp?

**Mark: Had a great time. There was five of us when the Worlds Fair was on, we got eighty dollars for five of us to go to the worlds fair and we had money left over.**

DNR: Is there anything you would like to add about your experience that I didn't touch on?

**Mark: I would like to see it go again.**

DNR: Annibel, were did you meet your husband?

**Annibel: Their car broke down and they were waiting for their car to be fixed. He came around the corner and saw me playing with a bunch of kids.**

DNR: This was when he was in the CCC?

**Annibel: Yes**

DNR: Did you know him before he was in the CCC?

**Annibel: No**

DNR: So what are your favorite memories of the CCC then?

**Annibel: Just that we had a lot of fun going back out there. That is the only part from when I was a kid that stayed.**

DNR: Is there anything else you would like to add about your life experience?

**Annibel: We've been married almost 64 years. We have 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.**